

English: Pronouns

♦ What is a Pronoun?

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun to avoid repetition.

***** Example:

- Ravi is a student. Ravi studies hard.
 - Ravi is a student. He studies hard.

Types of Pronouns

NDA syllabus covers 9 types of pronouns. Let's understand each with examples:

1. Personal Pronouns

Refer to specific persons or things.

Person Subject Pronoun Object Pronoun

First Person I, we me, us

Second Person you you

Third Person he, she, it, they him, her, it, them

***** Examples:

- I am a cadet.
- She is a teacher.
- · The officers saluted them.

2. Possessive Pronouns

Show ownership or possession.

Possessive Adjectives Possessive Pronouns

my, your, his, her mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs



***** Examples:

- This rifle is mine.
- That notebook is hers.

3. Reflexive Pronouns

Refer back to the subject.

Reflexive Pronouns

myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves



***** Examples:

- He trained himself for NDA.
- I prepared myself.

4. Emphatic Pronouns

Used for emphasis, but not essential to sentence meaning.



- I myself completed the assignment.
- She herself gave the speech.

5. Demonstrative Pronouns

Point to specific things.

Singular Plural

this, that these, those



Examples:

- This is important.
- Those are NDA aspirants.

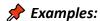
6. Interrogative Pronouns



Used to ask questions.

Interrogative Pronouns

who, whom, whose, which, what



- Who is on duty?
- What is your aim?

7. Relative Pronouns

Link a clause to a noun.

Relative Pronouns

who, whom, whose, which, that



***** Examples:

- The cadet who topped the exam was rewarded.
- The weapon that was found is dangerous.

8. Indefinite Pronouns

Refer to non-specific people or things.

Singular

Plural

Both

someone, anybody few, many, others all, any, none



Examples:

- **Everyone must carry their admit card.**
- Many joined the training.

9. Reciprocal Pronouns

Show mutual relationship between two or more.

Reciprocal Pronouns

each other, one another



***** Examples:

- The teammates respect each other.
- The cadets helped one another.
- ◆ Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement (Very Important for NDA)

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent (the noun it replaces) in:

- Number (singular/plural)
- Gender (masculine/feminine)
- Person (first/second/third)

Key Rules:

- 1. Singular antecedent → Singular pronoun
 - **♦** The soldier finished his mission.
 - X The soldier finished their mission.
- 2. Plural antecedent → Plural pronoun
 - **✓** The officers submitted their reports.
- 3. Compound subjects with "and" → Plural pronoun
 - Ravi and Sita finished their training.
- 4. Subjects joined by "or" / "neither-nor" → Pronoun agrees with closer noun
 - **♦** Neither the captain nor the soldiers forgot their duty.
 - Either the cadets or the officer will bring his ID.
- 5. Each, Every, Either, Neither → Singular pronoun
 - Each cadet must bring his document.
- 6. Collective nouns → Singular or plural based on meaning
 - The committee gave its opinion.
 - The committee argued among themselves.

NDA Error Spotting Examples:

- X Each of the students submitted their form.
- Each of the students submitted his form.



X Neither Rahul nor Ravi brought their notes.

Neither Rahul nor Ravi brought his notes.

Common Error-Prone Areas

- Mixing singular noun with plural pronoun
- Using reflexive pronoun incorrectly
- Using "who" vs "whom" wrong
- Misplacing possessive vs object form

Summary Table

Type Function Example

Personal Replaces a noun (subject/object) He, she, it, them

Possessive Shows ownership mine, yours, theirs

Reflexive Refers back to subject himself, herself

Emphatic Adds emphasis himself, herself

Demonstrative Points to things this, those

Interrogative Forms questions who, what

Relative Connects clauses who, which, that

Indefinite Unspecified people/things someone, many

Reciprocal Mutual relationship each other, one another

Pronoun-Antecedent Matches pronoun to noun Ravi → he, cadets → they